

Energy Independence

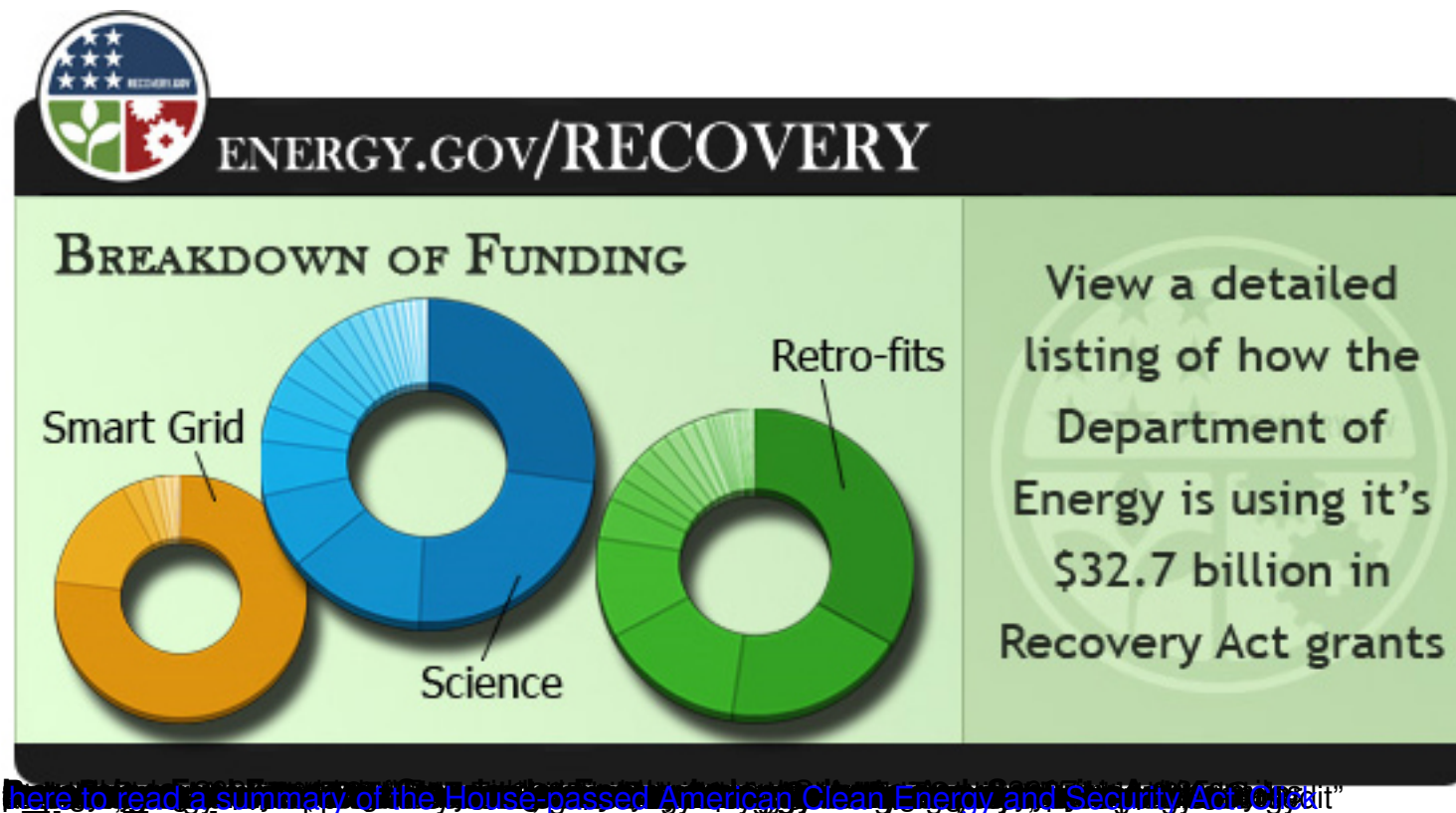
Congressman Becerra is working to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and invest in clean, renewable sources of energy and put Americans back to work with new clean energy jobs. Rep. Becerra is also a proponent of programs that aid modest-income families impacted by high energy prices and has worked to enact numerous legislative proposals that are setting America on course to a clean energy independent future, including:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Rep. Becerra voted for the Recovery Act, signed into law February 17, 2009, which is providing over \$32 billion in grants to promote energy efficiency and invest in America's homegrown energy sources that will never run out, like wind and solar power. In addition to jumpstarting the economy and saving millions of jobs, the Recovery Act is making major investments in America's clean energy independent future. Recovery Act grant programs include:

- \$5 billion for the [Weatherization Assistance Program](#)
- \$3.5 billion for [Smart Grid Investment Grant Program](#)
- \$346 million for [Energy efficient building technologies](#)

[Click here](#) to see a full breakdown of Recovery Act grant programs administered through the Department of Energy.



[here to read a summary of the House-passed American Clean Energy and Security Act](#) The Environment

Rep. Becerra is supportive of legislative proposals to cut pollution and promote a healthy environment, especially in urban areas like California's 31st congressional district, including:

The Brownfields Remediation Permanent Tax Incentive Act

On July 20, 2010, Reps. Becerra and Paul Ryan introduced the [Brownfields Remediation Permanent Tax Incentive Act](#)

in the House. The bill addresses the scourge of "brownfields," which are plots of contaminated land often found in urban landscapes that require extensive environmental remediation before they can be developed. The legislation makes permanent a tax incentive for private companies that take on the task of cleaning up these contaminated sites by making environmental cleanup costs fully deductible in the year that they are incurred. Making this incentive permanent will increase the amount of private capital available to revitalize these sites, accelerating the renewal and redevelopment of surrounding neighborhoods and commercial areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that there are over 450,000 brownfields sites in the United States. Rep. Becerra's legislation will provide a measure of certainty for businesses that may be interested in cleaning and redeveloping a contaminated site, but are unsure that the current tax expensing provision will remain in place throughout the project. Rep. Becerra has been a longtime champion of urban environmental renewal, and first introduced a version of the brownfields act in 2003.

Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act

On November 19, 2009, Reps. Becerra and Ginny Brown-Waite [introduced](#) the [Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act](#)

in the House. The bill will authorize public water agencies to issue tax credit bonds to finance innovative new water supply technologies and facilities. These include water-recycling facilities, projects to clean up and use impaired groundwater, and both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination projects. The CREWS bonds will be issued by public water agencies in exactly the same way as those agencies can presently issue conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds.

California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act

Rep. Becerra is strong supporter of Rep. Lois Capp's [California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act](#). This bill permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California.